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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 46, 1949.USSR NEEDS YOUNG SCIENTIFIC INSTRUCTORS

To realize Stalin's plan for greater achievement by the peoples of the USSR, every faction of economy and industry will have to be mobilized. The medical personnel of the Soviet Union also have their clear-cut tasks, accomplishment of which, however, requires the aid of large numbers of qualified instructors. The problem of supplying these qualified instructors is no small matter, but the task will not defeat the capabilities of the socialistic system. Many measures already have been adopted to guarantee a sufficient supply of young instructors: the period of instruction has been cut to 6 years, more rigid standards have been established for professors to teach the new class of instructors, grants to students have been increased, candidates are better prepared prior to examination for degrees, etc.

At present, more than 2,000 doctors of medical science are filling posts as professors, docents, and associates at 72 Soviet medical institutes. In addition, there are over 4,000 candidates of medical science who are giving their aid and assistance.

However, some among the above-mentioned 6,000 are unaware of their important duties. Many of them have been employed as instructors for more than 20 years and have not published a single scientific report, thus showing that perhaps they are not aware of any advances in scientific fields. At the Sverdlovsk Medical Institute, for example, the average age of associates is 50 years, and none of them has a degree in science.

At present, a nationwide program is under way to determine the qualifications of the associates in Soviet medical institutions. This program should take into account the educational as well as ideological-political qualifications of these associates.

Many of the "instructors" now teaching the new class of scientific educators have to be replaced by personnel whose background shows long practical experience in their particular specialty. Since May 1948, there has been a program to select as associates only those submitting satisfactory scientific reports. Up to date, 800 qualified instructors and associates have been selected

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on this basis. Institutes following the above plan have been able to graduate well-qualified, new, young scientific instructors. Among these institutions are the Kazan' Medical Institute, the Saratov Medical Institute, and the Chair of Normal Anatomy, Moscow Medical Institute.

However, even this plan has its drawbacks. Many institutions are using haphazard and formalistic methods for selecting their instructors, with the result that many instructors are appointed to teaching posts who have no qualifications for educating the youth of the Soviet Union in the principles of medicine.

The number of instructors in clinical schools during the past years has not kept pace with the increased needs of Soviet public health programs. Therefore, to insure a supply of qualified instructors in clinical medicine, it is necessary to conduct a program similar to that used in the selection of associates.

In many of the schools a very liberal attitude is evidenced with respect to graduates. Many of the future instructors are classed as qualified without having submitted scientific treatise. Professors Karlik and Rusakov, Moscow Institute, Ministry of Public Health USSR; Professor Skundina, Gor'kiy Medical Institute, and a few others have been particularly lax in this respect. It is time that they comply with the Ministry of Public Health's decree that those not suited for graduation as Medical science instructors be dropped from the educational courses.

There is a serious and harmful deficiency in the ideological-political training of instructors and instructors-to-be in the basic principles of Marxism and Leninism. It is believed that proper political indoctrination of faculty and student body will do much to improve the quality of instruction as well as the quality of graduates.

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